

DeSota
Serial no. 09/683,931
Filed 3/4/2002
Attorney docket no. BEA920010023

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REMARKS

Claims 1-9

Claim 1 is an independent claim, from which claims 2-9 ultimately depend. Claim 1 has been rejected, while claims 5-7 have been objected to as containing allowable subject matter, but which would be formally allowed if rewritten in independent form, including the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Claim 5 directly depends from claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 5, and thus is in allowable form. Claim 5 has been cancelled, whereas claims 6-7, which had depended from claim 5, have been amended to instead depend from claim 1. Claims 2-4 and 6-9 are thus in allowable form.

Claims 10-17

Claim 10 is an independent claim, from which claims 11-17 ultimately depend. Claim 10 has been amended to incorporate subject matter corresponding to claims 1 and 5. Thus, insofar as claim 1 as amended is allowable, Applicant believes that claim 10 as amended is allowable. Because claims 11-17 depend from claim 10, they are allowable, too.

Claims 18-20

Claims 18-20 have been cancelled.

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Conclusion

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the pending claims in condition for allowance, and request that they so be allowed. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants' Attorney so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. For these reasons, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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